

America Is Facing A Political Realignment

Tired of Both Parties, Labor, the Farmer and Radical Intellectuals are Surely Finding Common Ground Upon Which to Unite and Stand in Future National Elections

In a remarkable announcement recently published, a new organization named the Committee of Forty-eight issues a call for a conference of those radical forces in America which by nature of occupation stand outside the ranks of the labor and farmer movements of the country. This proposal constitutes simply the first step in a direct and conscious effort to bring together the hand and brain workers of America on a common programme and in some common form of organization looking toward political action. It aims to correct one of the most glaring and calamitous deficiencies in American life during the war period, namely, the lack of organization of our radical intellectual forces, and hence the lack of vigor, purpose, and consistency in our radical opinion. President Wilson, with his befuddling liberalism, has made it literally impossible for American radicals to know where they stand; each time a programme of real opposition raised its head, each time a sound body of radical opinion seemed about to be effected, he advanced a fresh variant on the pious theme of his now-proverbial idealism; and the revival of hopes has resulted only in the confusion of issues. The group comprising the Committee of Forty-eight apparently realizes that the first task for American radicals is to get them selves organized.

A Political Realignment

But over and above these initial considerations, the proposal is highly significant as an indication of present political tendencies in America. It amounts, briefly, to recognition of the fact that we are faced by a fundamental political realignment based on economic issues; that America, after her own fashion, must attack the same tremendous problems which confront the world abroad; that there is no possible escape from these problems; and that if we cannot solve them through our political machinery, our political machinery will be scrapped in revolution. "And after the war came reconstruction—as after death, the judgment." What was true of the Civil War is doubly true of the present situation. The economic exigencies of today have no safe margin to fall back on, as they had in 1865. There is no more slack left in the world's economic running gear; every rope is taut and singing under the gale that has come upon us out of the east; and if the strands begin to carry away, we shall soon be dismasted and drifting helplessly before the storm.

Framers of Our Constitution Could Not Foresee Present

The framers of our Federal Constitution could not foresee the development of modern industrialized society. They could not foresee the shifting of the actual seat of government from executive chambers and legislative halls to banks, stock exchanges, schools, and newspaper offices. They could not foresee banker control of credits and industry, and hence of education and the news, and hence of public opinion, and hence of the political machinery of government itself. They provided against political autocracy; but they could not foresee the gradual decay of the old forms of political power and the gradual rise of a new economic power; hence they could not provide

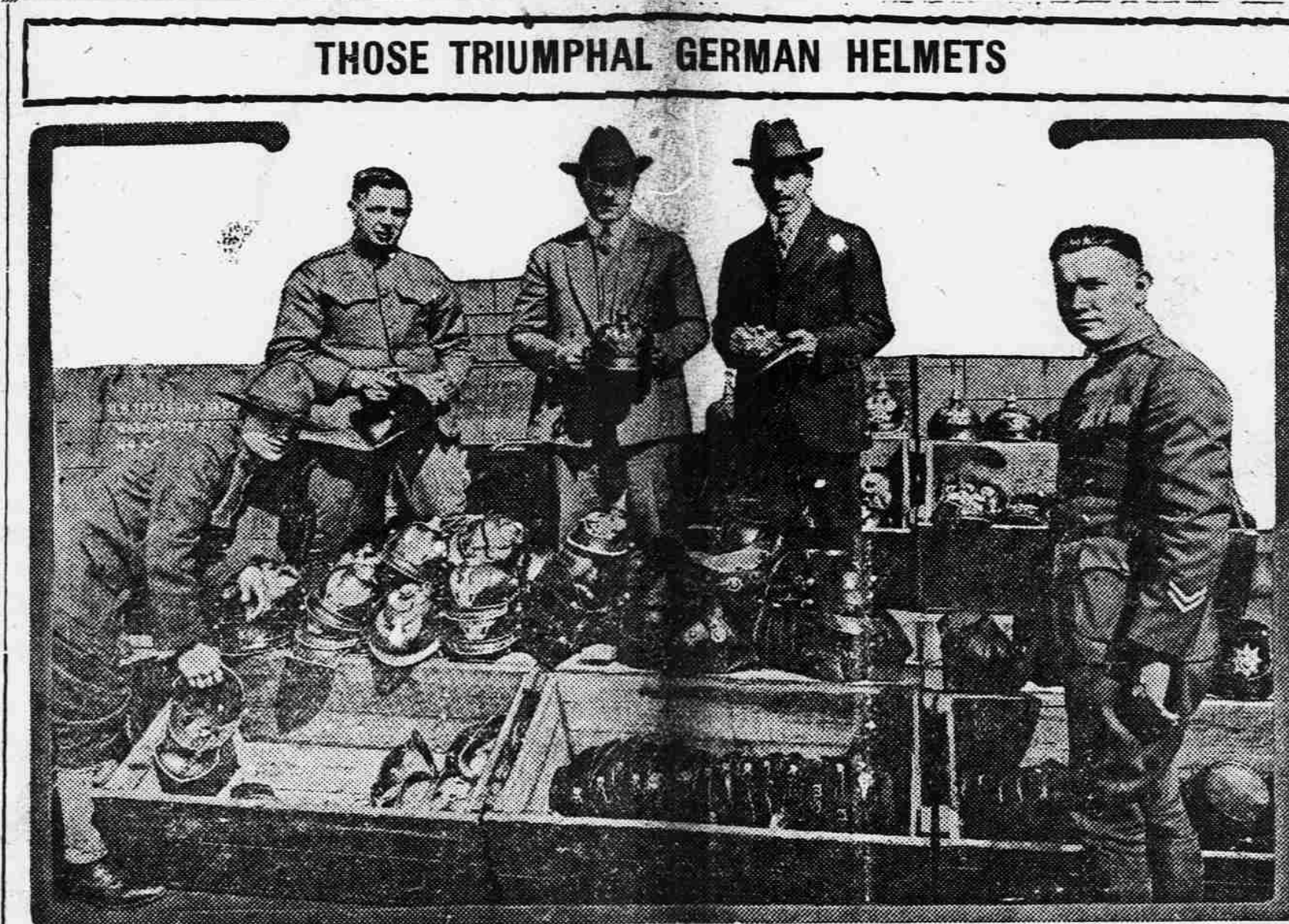
against industrial autocracy. The decay of the old forms of political power is written in a tacit but binding surrender. The real rule of the modern world—the power which makes or breaks a nation, which directs the creative energies of a culture, which determines the development and destiny of a people—is vested in forms economic rather than political. These constitute the invisible government which lies behind the visible government of the old political forms; they rule the world for profit, without a social sense; they rule the world for the benefit of a special class of investors and stockholders, rather than in the interests of the whole community. The old political forms remain fundamentally unchanged. From time to time they have suffered modification, under the pressure of drastic events; but never have they failed to resist the trend of society, never have they disclosed a spirit of co-operation with human endeavor, never have they kept pace with the swift development of the new business system.

Aggressiveness of Labor The Logical Sequence

Over against these new economic forms, exercising the real governmental functions of modern society, has grown in the industrial field a system of organized check and protest, the invisible opposition, as it were. This is the political significance of the organization of workers everywhere during the rapid rise of industrialism; they recognized the necessity of an economic opposition, the inadequacy of the old political forms to furnish a proper check upon the new governmental functions; and the action was a healthy sign of man's political sagacity. If the old political forms could have been flexible enough to encompass the new economic order, to ride the tidal wave of industrialism, all would have been well; the channels of political activities would have run smoothly, the workers would have been satisfied with adequate voice and representation in the new industrial functions of government, the community instead of a special class would have been profited, and the great economic war would not have descended upon our civilization. But those in control were too selfish or too blind to render the political machinery flexible, to make the invisible government the visible and responsible government, or to conduct the economic system with any degree of social sense; and thus they forced the workers to organize, and brought about a fatal division between our political activities and the life processes of our society.

War And Failure To Read The Signs

Then came the great war in Europe, as a direct result of this fatal division—as a direct result of the inability of a decadent system to control the predatory economic forces that actually ruled the world. And then, caught in the coils of its own blindness and irresponsibility, civilization was driven forward to the point of economic exhaustion—was driven far beyond that point, in fact, under the emphasis of war emotionalism—while the Governments that had brought on the holocaust were equally incapable of stopping it. The Russian revolution



Eighty-five thousand German helmets, captured by allied troops in Coblenz, are to be awarded as prizes by federal district committees in the Victory Liberty Loan campaign. They will be given to Victory note salesmen making the best selling records and school children writing the best essays on the loan. In the picture shown above, taken on the Treasury steps in Washington, are shown Frank E. Wilson, director of publicity (left), and Lewis B. Franklin, director of War Loan Organization (right). Wilson created a panic in the helmet market by buying the entire \$5,000 allotment from the War Department for \$1. It cost the German government more than that amount to manufacture each one of the helmets. These helmets were a special supply held in reserve for a triumphal entry into Paris. Eventually they arrived there by freight.

raised a flaming sign, but it was not heeded. The war went on; and the economic structure of society has been ruined past any redemption in terms of the old order. The bills are too staggering to be paid. The whole world is trembling on the brink of revolution. America is not immune.

And what is happening in different degree everywhere is what should have happened slowly during the past fifty years through the fundamental modification of the old political forms. The invisible government is being made the visible government. The Russian revolution led the way with a complete scrapping of the old political arrangements and the elevation of the economic control to the position of direct and responsible government. But Russia had a unique set of economic and social fundamentals; the revolution is not likely to take the same outright course elsewhere. It will be none the less an economic revolution. In England, guild socialism and the shop stewards' movement show the trend. If the old political forms resist too blindly, labor becomes impatient and thinks of direct action; it knows now the lesson that the war brought home—that the old political forms maintain their tenancy only on sufferance, and that the real political power rests in the hands of those forces which control the life processes of the land. If Parliament were to attempt to stand against the triple labor alliance in England, Parliament would fall. Unless Parliament can find a way to open its doors to the forces represented in the great industrial conference recently called by Lloyd George, those forces very soon will take over the functions of Parliament. The situation everywhere is too pressing to admit of delay or evasion. Unless the real economic rule can be merged with the old political forms, it will set up a new politics of its own.

The Old Order Must Go

What happens to the world will happen to us in America; the old order cannot be main-

tained in the Western Hemisphere if it fails in the Eastern Hemisphere. And when we look candidly at American political life, we see that the two old parties are inadequate to the task of reconstruction. There is no inherent difference between the Democratic party and the Republican party. Both are bankrupt of constructive ideas. Elections have not for a long time been fought between them on fundamental economic issues, but rather on personalities and inconsequential details. And what is true of the two old parties is true of the political thought of the country at large. America has drifted forward into a new economic era, with the basic issues that concern its daily life undiscussed, undefined, and undetermined. But now there is no escaping these issues. Labor will not permit it. Deep and searching questions must be answered. Wrongs must be righted. Open sores must be dressed and healed. There must be clear thinking, candid expression, wise judgment, and brave action. America's true genius for politics must find vent in a movement dedicated to sound and constructive radicalism.

A New Alignment Is Inevitable

So the new political alignment, based on fundamental economic issues, is bound to appear. The Bourbon Democrats and reactionary Republicans will join forces for the protection of their vested interests and economic privileges. The working classes will meet on a radical program of economic reform. The independent fringe in the two old parties will be absorbed by one or the other of these vital new movements. For almost the first time in the history of America, there will be a political division between conservatives and radicals. For almost the first time in the history of America, elections will be fought on fundamental issues. It will be a healthy thing for the political, social, and economic life of the country.

This political realignment is already in progress of formation. Led by the Chicago Federation

of Labor, independent labor-party movements are springing up throughout the country. They are laying down radical economic programmes, advocating shop committees and a minimum wage, and looking toward a concrete industrial democracy. The organized farmers of the country are awake to the same set of issues; they have recently adopted a far-reaching programme of economic reform. The Nonpartisan League is steadily gaining power. The Catholic bishops have issued a radical reconstruction programme, almost wholly economic in its nature, advocating shop committees and a minimum wage, and calling for the gradual participation of labor in the management and ownership of industry. And now come the radical intellectuals with their call for a conference. These are the signs of the times.

SAUNDERS HEADS CAMPAIGN FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

W. O. Saunders has accepted the responsibility of conducting the Salvation Army campaign for a Home Service Fund in Pasquotank county. The quonk county and promises to spend Salvation Army wants \$850 from Pasquotank county in work here among returning soldiers and their dependents. The campaign will be launched the latter part of May. Chairman Saunders will not name his organization until after the Victory Loan campaign is off the boards.

Start on Right Path.

With the almost numberless opportunities for good and for evil that a city life presents, it is for each one, and especially for every young person, to choose at first which path he will pursue, which current to carry him along.—Philadelphia Ledger.

WATER SYSTEMS FOR COUNTRY HOMES

If you are thinking of putting in a water system on your farm you should investigate Delco-Light before you make any decision.

We can show you in a few moments why it is greatly to your advantage to pump water by electricity. It costs a great deal less and is automatic in operation.

Pumping water is one of the important uses of Delco-Light. Let us give you a Delco-Light demonstration at your home.

DELCO-LIGHT PRODUCTS

Elizabeth City, N. C.
Agency for Pasquotank, Currituck, Chowan, Camden and Perquimans counties.—adv.

HEADLINE JINGLES

BY ROBERT H. WELCH, JR.

No matter what we try to learn
'Tis easier in verse;
In rhyme we say our baby prayers,
We learn what month has thirty days
And e'en might know in time
Much more arithmetic if we
Could multiply in rhyme.

So we have made a simple psy-
Cological deduction
(Don't try to find out what this means
It's just an introduction)
That folks who hate to read the news
Would count it in their pleasures
If they could have it sung to them
In seven-footed measures.

Therefore we'll tell each week the news
Of nation, state, and city,
And not because we like the work,
But mostly out of pity;
The ignorance of some of us
Is surely most appalling,
We undertake to educate
Without excessive galling.

It seems that France and Italy
Are much inclined to gorge;
We'd soon lose hope at their demands
If twon't for Lloyd George;
However large the storm may rise,
The ever-sure result is
He still declares that there remain
But minor difficulties.

With France we have some patience
though
She wants a bit too much,
But Italy just waited to see
Which side was best to touch,
Then fought the war for conquest, and
She'd give the Germans Asia,
And sign herself to any cause
That offered her Dalmatia.

Each week we're told that we'll have
peace
Before the next is spent,
It brings to mind the way we treat
The man who gets the rent.
They put us off, we'll grant it's hard
To settle all the scores,
But should we treat the landlord so,
He'd turn us out of doors.

The President is coming home—
At least he says he might—
If folks in France don't hustle up,
He'll do it just for spite.
The way we change the subject we'll
Admit a bit surprising,
But we'd almost forget to tell
That gasoline was rising.

The Philippines, the papers say,
Are wanting Independence.
If they attempt to rule themselves,
We wouldn't offer ten cents
Insurance on the whole concern;
There'll be a bunch of wrecks to show
To tell the truth we just don't want
Another neighbor Mexico.

The way the spring has blossomed out
Doth make us feel poetic;
With writers of spring poetry
We feel quite sympathetic,
And other silly nonsense,
And "eyes so true and skies so blue"
We still are loth to add unto
The paper basket's contents.

The forty days are almost gone,
The time when all the pious,
Refrain from moving picture shows
And other things that try us;
We've grown quite tired by now of be-
ing wiser and sadder men,
And those who are so good to-day
Will soon be bad again.

And now we've got some drains to plow
Before the sun's too high,
If anybody wants the job,
We wish that he'd apply.
So we could write more verses, it's
A shame the way they work us,
But still the dough will help to buy
A ticket to the circus.

ROAD BONDS TO BE SOLD MAY 20

Pasquotank Highway Commission Advertises For Sealed Bids

The Pasquotank Highway Commission took the first definite action toward the construction of permanent roads in Pasquotank county, Monday afternoon, when it advertised for sealed bids for \$500,000.00 of five per cent bonds.

The Commission will issue a five per cent bond to mature in 15 to 25 years, interest payable semi-annually in New York. The bids will be opened at 12 o'clock noon, Tuesday, May 20, 1919. The Commission will sell the entire issue at once and proceed at once to build roads.

The Commission at Monday's meeting took steps toward employing an experienced road engineer to superintend the laying out and construction of roads. They expect to have an engineer employed by the time the bonds are sold.

No action has been taken as to the material to be used in road construction or the width of roads to be built. It seems to be the unanimous opinion of the Commission to proceed at once with the construction of a main highway from Weeksville to Hinton's corner. The question of permanent improvement on other roads will be taken up later in the summer, as the construction of this road alone will consume the greater part of the summer if work can be started so early.

CARRY ON

How courageous is the American spirit? Is it less indomitable than that of the French or Belgians? France, sorrowing, but undaunted, has set about to repair the wreck the ruthless invader wrought, and refuses to view the future darkly, Belgium, stripped of all save honor, looks forward to the day when a greater nation will arise out of the ruins of the old. Shall America, then, bend and groan under the imaging of a burden which it should bear lightly, if it will at all?

Less than twenty years ago the success of the British Government in raising \$144,000,000 by a single loan operation was the wonder of the world's financial markets. In 1917, after two and one-half years of exhausting war, when prices had risen one hundred per cent and taxation had increased by \$1,440,000 per annum, Great Britain raised in thirty days a loan of \$4,800,000,000 a sum equal to 4 per cent of her national income before the war. To equal this effort the citizens of the United States would have to raise \$9,600,000,000 under the same condition.

Instead of days of dark foreboding, these should be days of rejoicing, of confidence and of high resolve. America is least injured of any of the nations which took active part in the death grapple with autocracy on the soil of France and Flanders. Except for the sixty thousand who gave up their lives and the other thousands who are returning maimed, the United States has made no real sacrifice. Our fields are green with grain, our homes and factories are still standing, our women and children have never been terrified. In all material things the nation is richer and stronger than it was before we went to war.

For our boys who have been saved for us by the termination of the war, for our increased prosperity, and above all for the fact that liberty still reigns on the earth, let us make the Victory Liberty Loan a thanksgiving loan; and prove that we are worthy of the boys who died for us.

Powerful Light

The amount of light given by a single lightning flash is sufficient to illuminate an area two miles square with an average illumination of one candle. To produce such an illumination, an eminent electrician estimates the expenditure of 13,000 horse power for one second would be required.—Indianapolis News.



JOHN NYEGAARD

MR. NYEGAARD is the new Farm Demonstration Agent for Camden County. He is Holland-Dutch, which means that he is a born agriculturist.